

Richmond yesterday (Sunday), they saw manifest indications of the evacuation of the city.

The streets were alive with people of all classes, conditions and ages, manifesting intense excitement.

All the Union prisoners in Libby Prison have been ordered to be exchanged by the Rebel authorities, and were hurried through the city of Richmond toward the Varina Landing in the greatest possible haste.

The Rebel Rans Eaten Up.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, April 4, 1865.

The Washington Star says: "The mail-boat Dictator, from City Point, reports that on Sunday night, before the evacuation of Richmond, the Rebels blew up their forts and rams on the James River, the explosion of which was terrible, resembling an earthquake, and being heard for miles around."

The News at City Point.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, April 4, 1865.

From the mail-boat Dictator, which left City Point yesterday at 10 a. m., the Star obtained the following: Among other items, she reports that the receipt of the news of the fall of Richmond was received at City Point with the greatest enthusiasm, and the vessels in port were immediately gaily dressed with flags, presenting a handsome appearance.

At Fortress Monroe a salute was fired, and the sailors and soldiers expressed their joy in various ways.

On Sunday night before the evacuation of Richmond, the Rebels blew up their forts and rams on the James River, the explosion of which was terrible, resembling an earthquake, and was heard for miles around.

Our gunboats have moved up the James River, and are now engaged in removing the obstructions.

Gen. Weitzel, upon entering Richmond, was directed by Gen. Grant to allow no one to leave the city or permit any one to enter who was not connected with the army or had authority to do so.

The Rebels fired Petersburg in several places before evacuating the town, but the fire was speedily extinguished.

Over 5,000 prisoners have already been received at City Point, and others are constantly arriving. In fact there were so many prisoners there that a sufficient number of troops could not be spared to guard them.

The entire number of prisoners captured by our troops up to yesterday was estimated at 13,000 by well-informed officers.

Our wounded are being sent in to City Point as rapidly as possible, and hospital boats are there taking them on board for shipment to Baltimore and Washington.

The Rebel deserters in the Bull Pen at City Point appeared to receive the news of the fall of Richmond with as great enthusiasm as our own troops, and gave cheer after cheer.

The Dictator brought up nearly 700 Rebel deserters, who desire to take the oath of allegiance.

President Lincoln Reported at Richmond.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, April 4, 1865.

The Bulletin of this city has received the following special dispatches:

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, April 4, 1865.

Mr. Lincoln received a dispatch from the President to-day, dated as follows:

"From Jefferson Davis's late residence at Richmond."

Correspondents from City Point state that Lee has divided the remainder of his army, and is retreating in two small columns.

Our prisoners at noon yesterday exceeded twenty five thousand.

The Rebel destruction of property on their retreat literally beggars description.

Stragglers and deserters are even in excess of what was anticipated.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

SUNDAY'S BATTLE.

A Glorious Day—Preparations for the Assault—The Assault—Operations of the Different Corps—The Rebel Lines Pierced—Gen. Ord.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HIGH WATER OPERATIONS AGAINST RICHMOND.

NEAR PETERSBURG, SUNDAY NIGHT, APRIL 3.

VICTORY.

This has been a glorious day for the armies operating against Richmond. For the first time in its annals the noble old Army of the Potomac, aided by a portion of the Army of Major-Gen. E. O. C. Ord, has achieved a grand and almost overwhelming victory over the best army of the belligerent Confederacy—a victory which will, in all probability, be crowned to-morrow morning by its triumphant entry into the city of Petersburg.

For the first time in its history this grand old army of battle-scarred veterans whose breasts have so often been bared to the storms of a hundred battles, has almost at its mercy the thoroughly beaten, disheartened and demoralized army of their vanquished Rebel chieftain, and to-night rests on its laurels full of hope for the morrow. At Gettysburg, and on a score of other battle-fields, it rolled back the assaulting foe, awarding him a bloody repulse, and on a hundred other occasions its own assaults have resulted only in its discomfiture and defeat. True, it has at times succeeded, by dint of determined valor, in achieving important advantages, but all these have been eclipsed by the glorious results of to-day's engagement in front of Petersburg.

THE ASSAULT ON THE ENEMY'S WORKS.

In accordance with the programme arranged last night the attack upon the enemy's lines on the east and south of Petersburg was made simultaneously at daybreak this morning by the Sixth and Ninth Corps, Turner's and Foster's Divisions of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, and Birney's Colored Division of the Twenty-fifth. The Second and Third Divisions of the Second Corps likewise assaulted the enemy's lines in their front at a later hour, and after a brief but sharp contest with the opposing pickets drove them into their works across the Boydton Plank-road, and pressing forward were soon in undisputed possession of the Rebel line, having met with comparatively trifling resistance, and having captured several hundred prisoners.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASSAULT.

Hours began along the Sixth and Ninth Corps front several hours before daylight. The troops were massed as quietly as possible for the attack at daybreak, but, notwithstanding, their maneuvers were discovered by the enemy, who at once opened a terrific artillery and musketry fire upon them, continuing it until they moved outside of their works for the grand charge which resulted in such signal success. It was yet dark when our forces began their march for the enemy's line in the face of a fierce and incessant fire such as has seldom been exceeded during the war. The firing of the enemy was wild and inaccurate, however, and our troops suffered less while moving to the charge than when massed two hours before.

THE NINTH CORPS.

At the time before mentioned, the line of the Ninth Corps was advanced from the Appomattox to its left, near the Weldon Railroad, and after a short but desperate contest was in possession of the greater portion of the Rebel line east of Petersburg, including most of the formidable entrenchments. The Division of Wilcox re-

ing its right on the Appomattox, was afterward furiously attacked and forced to retire to its original position, while those of Porter and Hartranft, further to the left, still held tenaciously the greater portion of the enemy's line, notwithstanding the desperate attempts made to dislodge them. Fort Mahone, in front of the notorious Fort Hell, and three other formidable earthworks to the northward had been carried by storm, and the enemy, maddened at the success of our assault, were in turn assaulting, now driving our men from the works, and again being hurled back leaving them in our hands. The history of the fighting of the Ninth to-day is made up of a series of charges and counter-charges, finally resulting in our retention of the works carried by Porter and Hartranft in the morning, with the exception of Fort Mahone, one portion of which is still in the hands of the enemy. Gen. Porter was severely if not fatally wounded while fighting his Division this morning.

THE SIXTH CORPS.

To the gallant old Sixth was reserved the honor of carrying the whole Rebel line of works on their front, of sweeping down to the left to the Appomattox, south-west, and two miles from Petersburg, of cutting the long-covered Southside Railroad, and of capturing some 2,000 prisoners, 20 guns, and a number of battle-flags. Brig.-Gen. L. A. Grant, commanding the Second Brigade of Getty's Division, was severely wounded in the head by the fragment of a shell while preparing his command for the charge an hour before daybreak. The Corps was massed for the attack as follows: In the center deployed in line of battle the Division of Gen. Getty, supported on the left and right respectively by the Divisions of Gen. Seymour and Wheaton, moving in echelon. The Division of Getty leading the advance was formed from left to right of the Second Brigade, Lieut.-Col. Tracy of the 1st Vermont temporarily commanding, the First Brigade, Gen. Warner, and the Third commanded by Col. Hyde of the 1st Maine Regiment. Under the fire of four Rebel batteries, and in the face of a storm of bullets, the different Divisions, in the order mentioned, moved steadily on to the attack, driving back the Rebel skirmishers, piercing two lines of abatis, carrying at the point of the bayonet the whole line in their front, and making the important captures referred to. The first regiment entering the enemy's works was the 13th Pennsylvania, of the Second Brigade of Getty's Division, led by Col. Maude, A. A. G. on the staff of Gen. Getty. The line wrested so gallantly from the enemy was but a mile from the Southside Railroad, and across which the troops of the Corps were immediately thrown, with the left of our new line resting on the Appomattox, west of Petersburg. All attempts of the enemy to repulse their line having resulted in his repulse, he withdrew between 10 and 11 o'clock across Town Creek to his inner line of earthworks, in the immediate vicinity of the city.

THE ENEMY CUT IN TWO.

The enemy having thus been completely cut in two, dispositions were immediately made to roll up his right wing in the direction of Dinwiddie Court House, the Second Division of the Second Corps, led by Gen. Humphrey in person, being at once dispatched down the Cox Road running toward Dinwiddie Court House, between the Boydton Plank-road and the Southside Railroad, for the purpose of enveloping the Rebels on the north, while Sheridan, supported by the Fifth Corps and Miles' Division of the Second, cut off their retreat southward. How far we have succeeded in accomplishing this result has not transpired at the hour of writing. It is generally believed that that portion of the enemy cut off in the direction of Sutherland's Station will make every effort to escape without giving battle, but it may very reasonably be supposed that our cavalry, with the aid of the infantry supporting it, will be able either to capture or annihilate the whole of the Rebel force. News from Sheridan's army may be expected to-morrow, and there is every reason to believe that it will be of the most gratifying character.

GRANT'S COMMAND.

The command of Gen. Ord was also hotly engaged this morning. From his position across Hatcher's Run, the troops at daybreak charged the enemy's works, capturing them and driving the enemy in confusion. In obedience to orders, Gen. Ord then moved up from his position on the Run, and formed to the support and on the right of the Sixth Corps. Full details of the operations of this command are not at present available, but his troops are known to have been equally successful with the Sixth in the capture of works, guns and prisoners.

PETERSBURG VIRTUALLY OUTFORT.

Everyone confidently believes that Petersburg will be abandoned during the night, the enemy retiring to his works north of the town. It is possible that Lee may essay desperate efforts to break Grant's line, which now half encircle the city, but it is far beyond the range of possibility that he will succeed.

GRANT RELENTLESS.

Not content to rest upon the new laurels he has won, Gen. Grant will to-morrow follow up to-day's achievement by another assault upon the enemy. Preparations are now going forward for to-morrow's work. The Appomattox is being pontooned for the crossing of troops to the west and north-west of Petersburg, and unless Lee retreats to-night ten hours hence must witness the annihilation of his army. When it is known that we have possession of the Southside Railroad, and that we cannot be dislodged by any force the enemy can bring against us, the extremely critical position of Lee will once be fully comprehended.

OUR LOSSES.

Our casualties in to-day's engagement are represented by general officers as comparatively light. It is impossible at this time to form any accurate estimate of our killed and wounded, which will not probably exceed 2,500 or 3,000. Among the killed is Gen. Russell of the Twenty-fifth Corps, and Lieut.-Col. Crosby of the 61st Pennsylvania, and among the wounded, Brig.-Gen. Grant of the Sixth Corps, Lieut.-Col. E. D. Holt of the 9th New York, mortally, and Lieut.-Col. D. J. Caw of the 7th New York, in the breast, severely.

THE REBEL GEN. HILL REPORTED KILLED.

There is a report, lacking confirmation however, that the Rebel Gen. Hill was killed in to-day's engagement.

THE REBEL GEN. RANSOM MORTALLY WOUNDED.

Major-Gen. Ransom of Hill's Corps is wounded, and a prisoner. His wounds are believed to be mortal.

GUNS AND PRISONERS CAPTURED.

Thus far official reports of 45 guns, a large number of battle-flags and about 10,000 prisoners have been received at Gen. Meade's headquarters. Of this number of prisoners Sheridan captured about one half in his brilliant fight yesterday p. m. at the Five Points or Forks, North-West of Dinwiddie Court-House.

GEN. WARREN RELIEVED.

Major-Gen. Warren, commanding the Fifth Corps, was relieved last night by Gen. Sheridan, and ordered to report to Gen. Grant for orders. The cause generally assigned is the refusal of Warren to obey an order of Gen. S., to whom, with his Corps, he had been directed to report. It is reported that Gen. Sheridan's present force, both of cavalry and infantry, constitute an army of his own, and that he reports directly to the Lieutenant-General for orders.

GENERAL REJOICING.

Everybody is jubilant over to-day's grand victory. Gen. Grant and Meade's headquarters to-night are at the Ritchie House, on the Boydton Plank-road, and three miles from Petersburg.

April 3, 4 a. m.—News has reached us of the evacuation of Petersburg.

Glad News—The Sixth Corps—Progress of the Fight—Appearance of Gen. Sheridan—The Twenty-fourth Corps—5,000 taken Prisoners.

From Our Special Correspondent.

IN THE FIELD WITH THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

April 2, 1865.

To-day I have glad news to communicate. After a series of hard-fought actions this army forced out of their strong lines the enemy who have so long held it at bay. At 4:30 a. m. a general attack was made by all the Corps, which resulted in this great success. The left of our long line, with the cavalry on its flank, turned that of the enemy, who threw back their right from point to point as our army gained ground; and at the end of a glorious day they were found clinging to their last line of defenses on their left. I will give a brief report of the action of each Corps in this great operation, as far as it was possible for one person to see not gifted with the power of ubiquity, and will begin with

THE SIXTH CORPS.

At 4:30 a. m. this Corps, under Gen. Wright, left its lines to attack that part of the enemy in its front who formed their left center. The Corps moved in this order: On the right was the First Division, in echelon of brigades, left in front; then came the Second Division, in two lines, and next was the Third, in the same order as the first. This echelon order was used to enable the Corps to throw forward its left and flank the works of the enemy one after another. In a very little time the picket line of the enemy was driven away from its pits, and the line swept on in fine order. Soon a battery of four guns opened upon the First Division, but it did not fire many rounds, for in a rapid charge by the First Brigade it was at once taken, and thus the first work was out of the way.

The batteries of the enemy now opened from every point, and shells flew about the lines, but on they went gallantly. The left soon got near some works in its front, and one by one these fell into our hands. At 10:30 a grand picture of war presented itself. The line of the Corps, with its left in advance, was to be seen sweeping on toward two heavy forts of the enemy, and in rear of its left was the Twenty-fourth Corps in support. At this time the enemy plied their guns vigorously, and shells flew about and burst thickly over our line. The scene was a fine and thrilling one. In the rear, too, was to be seen crowds of men standing upon our earthworks to get a view of the great tableau.

On pushed the left Division until it struck the line of the South Side Railroad; and against the two forts swept the Second Division, under Gen. Getty. At the same time the batteries of the latter, posted on rising ground, kept up a sharp fire upon the forts, which did not relax their fire until our men were close up to them. Then a dash was made upon the works, but it was repulsed. Again it was tried, and this time it met with success, but so resolute were some of the enemy inside that they used the bayonet for a short time.

As these two works fell into our hands a loud cheer rent the air, and the enemy were seen hastily retiring to their works next in line, which at once opened sharply in an effort to stay our advance.

SHERIDAN.

About this time Gen. Sheridan came upon the field, and was greeted by a loud cheer from the Sixth Corps, who look up to him with great respect. This must have been a glad moment for him, and the writer never before saw a finer sight, as the Sixth and Twenty-fourth Corps swept on to victory. At this time our entire line was changing its long front to the right, and slowly before the broken line of the enemy was falling back upon rear defenses.

From Battery No. 45 the enemy now fired sharply upon the line of the Second Division, which passed under cover of the two captured works, and got ready for the new work before it. At the same time three batteries were posted at easy range from the Rebel works, and plied them with shell, until they had forced the gunners to leave their guns, and lie under cover of the parapet.

In the meantime the Twenty-fourth Corps came into line on the left of the Sixth, and the First Division of the latter was sent round to support the Ninth Corps, which had the heaviest part of the great work to do. Against the line of defenses that the enemy had now fallen back upon, a heavy force was now pitted, and formed in this way: On the left was the Twenty-fourth Corps (two Divisions), and the Second Division, Sixth Corps; to their right was the Second Division, Twenty-fifth Corps (Colored), and lastly, on its right, was the Third Division of the Sixth Corps. All these, except the Second Division of the Sixth Corps, were fresh troops, and the Negro Division was eager for the fray. As this new line was being formed the enemy shelled it sharply, but the hollows in the ground at that point enabled the dispositions to be made with little loss.

A LULL.

A lull took place when all this force was ready, and it was plain that a distinct action was about to take place. In fact, all the day long the fighting was a series of actions rather than a continuous battle. The enemy had time to gain fresh breath for the coming attack, and looked on quietly at our half-hidden lines, reserving their fire for a good mark.

TROPHIES.

Up to this time the trophies gained by us at this point were some 2,000 prisoners, four flags, and 25 to 30 guns; and with pleasure I write, that three of the guns were taken by the 6th N. Y. V. of the First Brigade, First Division, Sixth Corps, who took them by a gallant charge very early in the day. Those were, I think, the first guns taken by the Corps, the battery lying first in its way, and not far from the Rebel line of pickets. There were four guns in the battery, and the fourth gun was taken by the 95th Pa. Vols., in the same brigade.

Dark stole over the scene before the force set against the Rebel line at this point was ready, and the attack was deferred for the next day. It was too serious to attack this line of the enemy hastily, for it was their main one. In line the two divisions of the Sixth Corps, the Twenty-fourth Corps, and the Negro Division lay at a rest until dark, and then stacked arms, to light fires and cook some food. Tired with the day's fight, the men soon lay down and fell asleep on the field of their glory.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH CORPS.

lay in the morning in the new line that it had won the day before in front of our left center, and at 4:30 a. m. it took its share in the general fight by carrying, with the Second Division, Twenty-fifth Corps, the Rebel works in its front. The Corps then moved by its right to extend aid to the Sixth, which had such a heavy task to perform. On coming up, it first lent support to the Sixth, and afterward entered into line on its left. The service it did in that position is stated under the action of the Sixth Corps, so that I need not go again into an account of it, and space will not allow me to write details.

The action of the Second Division of the Twenty-fifth Corps was so connected with that of the Twenty-fourth Corps (with which it acted as a part of the same Corps) that I will not say more of it than what appears in my account of the action of the Sixth.

There is a report that the Twenty-fourth Corps lost its leader, Gen. Gibbons, during the day, and I have not heard the report contradicted so far.

THE FIFTH CORPS.

In the day's great work the part played by this Corps was a very high one. On the left of our line, with the cavalry on its left, the Fifth Corps did the great service of turning and driving back the right of the Rebel army, formed of their First Corps, which was transferred

from their left, in order to meet the danger threatening their right.

The success met with by the Fifth Corps was great, though I am unable to give details of it. The results were some 4,000 to 5,000 prisoners, taken mostly from Pickett's Division, and whom the cavalry was most active in capturing, though to both belong the honor. The entire force was under the command of Gen. Sheridan. Late in the day it was reported that the Rebel First Corps was cut off from the rest of its line by the Fifth Corps which cut upon its left. By this it added another laurel to its wreath.

THE SECOND CORPS.

This gallant body, which in every fight has played so high a part, did to the full its share in the battle of to-day, under Gen. Humphrey.

The Corps lay on the left of our line, connecting with the right of the Fifth, and had some very rough ground to fight upon, as well as brave foe to fight with, in the Rebel Third Corps (under Gen. Hill). In spite of all, however, it drove the enemy in its front, back step by step, losing many gallant men in the effort. It may not be too much to say that from 4:30 to day until dark the Second Corps had rather the most to do, the nature of the ground—thick pine woods—enabling the enemy to fight stubbornly. To all the Corps, Division Generals, and to its Commander much praise is due for its untiring valor.

THE NINTH CORPS.

The line of Rebel defenses in front of this Corps was stronger than those at any other point, and consequently the Corps had heavy work to do. At the ordered time, 4:30, it made an attack upon the Rebel line of defenses stretching to the Appomattox, and carried some of the outer defenses. Here the Rebel Second Corps (under Gen. Gordon) fought. It was this body that made the at first successful attack upon the line of the Ninth Corps on the 25th ult., and to-day its line was in turn attacked. In the course of the day the Ninth Corps delivered many assaults upon the Rebel lines and met with some successes but lost many men. At the end of the day it found itself close up to the main line of the defenses but unable to go any further.

The First Division of the Tenth Corps lent its support to the Ninth Corps, and aided it in the great work of the CAVALRY.

This arm was the first to begin the great work of turning the right of the enemy, and under its dashing leader, Gen. Sheridan, to-day played a very high part in the battle. The Fifth Corps sent it strong support, and to this body it owes the aid that enabled it to recover from a check and to attack the enemy again under Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, with most of their First Corps in support of him. From the latter was taken in the fight on the 1st the 3,000 men of Pickett's Division.

It was thought to-day that our cavalry had got round upon the enemy's line of retreat upon Lynchburg.

THE REBEL LINE.

was formed of four Corps in this order. On their right with the cavalry on the flank, was the First Corps. Next to it was the Fourth Corps, then the Third, and lastly, with its left resting upon the Appomattox, the Second Corps.

There were Fitz Lee, Hill, Gordon and Anderson, and under them were such men as Heth, Wilcox, Evans and others.

GENERAL LEE.

Coolly directing the battle in this crisis was Gen. Lee, who, it must be said, made a hard fight of it and showed his usual ability. He fought against numbers and made the best of it. His total force did not exceed 60,000 men of all arms.

OUR LOSSES.

It is not easy to guess at our losses to-day. I think 8,000 men in all will cover it. The Ninth Corps lost most, and next to it the Second. The loss is not at all equal to the great results gained.

PRISONERS.

During the day I saw some 2,000 prisoners taken about the center of our line, and I think the total number taken to-day may reach 8,000 to 10,000 men.

MEN OF NOTE LOST.

I have heard only of the name of Gen. Gibbons as one of the killed. Of men of lesser note there was Gen. Grant, in command of a brigade of the First Division Sixth Corps; and Col. Crosby, 61st Pa., and Holt, 49th New York, both dead, and of the First Division Sixth Corps.

To-morrow great results are looked for.

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